

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously presented): An active suture comprising

a braided suture having proximal and distal ends and an outer diameter, said braided suture having a plurality of interstices along at least a portion of its length; and

at least one passageway coaxial with at least a portion of the braided suture, and having proximal and distal ends and a diameter that is less than the outer diameter of the braided suture and having one or more openings therein so that said at least one passageway conducts fluid to said plurality of interstices of said braided suture;

wherein the distal end of the at least one passageway is disposed between the proximal and distal ends of the braided suture.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): An active suture comprising

a braided suture having an outer diameter said braided suture having a plurality of interstices along at least a portion of its length; and

a tube coaxial with at least a portion of the braided suture, having an outer diameter that is less than the outer diameter of the braided suture and an inner diameter, and having one or more openings therein so that said tube conducts fluid to said plurality of interstices of said braided suture;

wherein the ratio of the outer diameter of the tube to the inner diameter of the tube is greater than 1.7.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): An active suture comprising a first braided suture having an outer diameter and having embedded therein a coated fiber tow or coated

braided suture coaxial with at least a portion of the first braided suture, said coated fiber tow or coated braided suture having an outer diameter that is less than the outer diameter of the first braided suture, and said coated fiber tow or coated braided suture having one or more opening therein.

Claim 4 (Original): The active suture of claim 1, where the at least one passageway is a lumen of a tube.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): The active suture of claim 1, where the at least one passageway is within a coated fiber tow or a coated braided suture.

Claim 6 (Original): The active suture of claim 4, where the tube has one or more holes that connect the lumen to the outer surface of the tube.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): The active suture of claim 5, where the coated fiber tow or coated braided suture has one or more holes that connect the at least one passageway to the outer surface of the coated fiber tow or coated braided suture.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): The active suture of claim 3, further comprising a connector located on the proximal end of the at least one passageway, on one end of the tube, or on one end of the coated fiber tow or braided suture, said connector being capable of attachment directly to a hypodermic needle or indirectly to an intravenous delivery system or fluid pump.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The active suture of claim 1,2 or 3 further comprising an inflatable reservoir on the proximal end of the at least one passageway, on one end of the tube, or on one end of the coated fiber tow or braided suture.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): The active suture of claim 9, further comprising a connector proximal to the inflatable reservoir.

Claims 11-25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (New): The active suture of claim 2, wherein the tube comprises a polymer.

Claim 27 (New): The active suture of claim 26, wherein the polymer is a bioabsorbable polymer.

Claim 28 (New): The active suture of claim 26, wherein the polymer is a non-absorbable polymer.

Claim 29 (New): The active suture of claim 26, wherein the polymer tube is internally coaxial with the braided structure and is truncated such that a distal end of the polymer tube is disposed between the proximal and distal ends of the braided structure.

Claim 30 (New): The active suture of claim 26, wherein the polymer tube is internally coaxial with the braided structure and extends the entire length of the active suture.

Claim 31 (New): The active suture of claim 26, wherein the active suture can be tied into a surgeon's knot without collapse of the polymer tube at the location of said knot.

Claim 32 (New): The active suture of claim 31, wherein the polymer is polypropylene.

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Claim 33 (New): The active suture of claim 31, wherein the polymer is polyethylene or polytetrafluoroethylene and the ratio of the outer diameter of the tube to the inner diameter of the tube is greater than 2.0.

Claim 34 (New): The active suture of claim 1, wherein said internal passageway comprises a polymer tube.

Claim 35 (New): The active suture of claim 34, wherein the active suture can be tied into a surgeon's knot without collapse of the polymer tube at the location of said knot.

Claim 36 (New): The active suture of claim 35, wherein the polymer is a bioabsorbable polymer.

Claim 37 (New): The active suture of claim 35, wherein the polymer is a non-absorbable polymer.

Claim 38 (New): The active suture of claim 37, wherein the polymer is polypropylene and the ratio of the outer diameter of the tube to the inner diameter of the tube is greater than 1.7.

Claim 39 (New): The active suture of claim 37, wherein the polymer is polyethylene or polytetrafluoroethylene and the ratio of the outer diameter of the tube to the inner diameter of the tube is greater than 2.0.

Claim 40 (New): The active suture of claim 1, wherein said internal passageway comprises a fiber tow coated with a polymer coating.